

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01028 231659Z
ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: EDITORIAL IN CORK EXAMINER MARCH 22, 1978

FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN CORK EXAMINER
MARCH 22, 1978 UNDER HEADING ANTI-APARTHEID YEAR:

YESTERDAY MARKED THE START OF ANTI-APARTHEID YEAR,
A CAMPAIGN SPEARHEADED BY THE UNITED NATIONS TO
BRING INCREASED PRESSURE FOR CHANGE ON THE WHITE
MINORITY GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH
AFRICA. THE CAMPAIGN WILL AIM TO MOBOLISE PUBLIC
OPINION AND PERSUADE GOVERNMENTS, TRADE UNIONS,
SPORTING BODIES, BUSINESSES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS
TO CUT ANY LINKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA THAT MIGHT
ENCOURAGE THE CONTINUATION OF APARTHEID THERE.

IT IS WORTHWHILE ASKING, THEREFORE, WHY SOUTH AFRICA
SHOULD BE SINGLED OUT FOR SUCH SPECIAL TREATMENT.
IT IS NOT THE WORLD'S MOST OPPRESSIVE REGIME:
EQUALLY DICTATORSHIPS ARE TWO-A-PENNY IN SOUTH
AMERICA. IT IS NOT BECAUSE SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS
ARE THE WORST OFF IN AFRICA, MATERIALLY THEY ARE
AMONG THE RICHEST.

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THERE IS NOTHING UNIQUE IN THE WORLD TODAY ABOUT
THE DENIAL OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE OR TO STRIKE; OR
THE USE OF DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL AND TORTURE TO
SUPPRESS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DISSENT. THERE
ARE MANY COUNTRIES WHERE THE GAP BETWEEN THE
RICHEST AND THE POOREST IS MUCH WIDER THAN IN
SOUTH AFRICA.

WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT THE APARTHEID SYSTEM IS
THAT THE ABUSES MOST DICTATORSHIPS DENY THEY
PRACTISE ARE IN SOUTH AFRICA WRITTEN INTO THE
LEGAL SYSTEM.

EVERYWHERE THE NON-WHITE GOES, FROM BALLOT BOXES
TO PUBLIC TOILETS, HE IS TOLD THAT HE CANNOT ENTER.
EVERY EFFORT TO IMPROVE HIMSELF IS FRUSTRATED.
HE CANNOT START A BUSINESS, BUY LAND FOR A HOUSE
OR FARM, JOIN A POLITICAL PARTY OR A TRADE UNION,
SEND HIS CHILDREN TO THE SCHOOL OF HIS CHOICE,
MARRY WHERE HIS HEART LEADS HIM.

THE INSTITUTIONALISING OF INJUSTICE IS THE UNIQUE
DEGRADATION OF APARTHEID. KRENE

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